Committee on 14th June, 2000 to study the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam. The dam was found to be safe by the Expert Committee for holding water upto 142 ft. level taking into account the earthquakers of moderate intensity that occuured in Kerala on 12 December, 2000 and 7 January 2001 which were state to be of magnitude 5 on the Richter Scale.

(b) and (c) An all Party Delegation of Government of Kerala met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31.8.2006 and gave a memorandum wherein they have requested Government of India for immediate intervention in the matter so as to persuade Tamil Nadu to come forward for an amicable settlement of the issue. They had also raised the issues of Government of Tamil Nadu's non-cooperation in the Joint inspection of the seepage management, instrumentation of the Mullaperiyar Dam and not allowing Kerala Officers to access the basic data for evaluating the safety of the dam.

Meanwhile, the Superme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 on the suit filed by Government of Tamil Nadu praying for Declaration of Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act 2006 passed by Kerala Legislature as uncopstitutional, stating "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute".

The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) further discussed matter with the Ministers (WR/PW) from the State of Tamil Nadu & Kerala on 18.12.2006. The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala reiterated their respective stand in the meeting and no consensus could be reached regarding a solution acceptable to both States.

Pollution and silt problem in rivers

†1628. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution and silt is increasing in major rivers of country particularly the Ghaggar and the Yamuna rivers passing through Haryana;

(b) whether as a result of it, the water carrying capacity of these rivers is being adversely affected; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider working on a policy in increase their water carrying Capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are polluted stretches of various rivers in India, with the Ministry of Environment and forests providing assistance to various State Governments for implementation of pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan. Government of Punjab have informed that due to urbanization and industrialization, pollution is increasing in the rivers passing through the State. In respect of Yamnua river, in seven rounds of observations made by the Central Pollution Control Board in June-Dec. 2006, the water quality at Palla was meeting the desired criteria of dissolved Oxygen (DO); Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in three rounds and did not meet the criteria in respect of Total Coliform. Water quality did not meet any of these criteria in Yamuna at Agra Canal (Madanpur Khadar), Agra Canal (Okhla) and Okhla after confluence with Shahdara drain and Nizamuddin Bridge. As per Government of NCT of Delhi, the water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

quality of river Yamuna is meeting the criteria with respect to DO and BOD at palla and, after confluence of Najafgarh Drain, it does not meet the criteria of DO, BOD and Coliform. Upper Yamuna River Board have informed that Delhi Jal Board have reported from time to time that high concentration of ammonia in Yamuna water has been found at Wazirabad due to releases of untreated effluents from Haryana. However, as per the Government of Haryana, pollution in river Yamuna is well within the norms when it enters Delhi State and joint sampling is done by the State and Central Pollution Control Boards on monthly basis and the results are within limits. In respect of river Ghaggar, its waters are polluted by effluents discharged from factories located in the various States *en route*.

In respect of silting in rivers, Government of Punjab have informed rivers Sutlej, Beas and Ravi of Punjab have been tamed by construction of dames with the result that free flow of water and accompanying silt in these rivers is minimal. Ghaggar is a seasonal river having flash floods and brings a lot of sand/silt. However, as the sand is being mined, there is hardly any increase in the net silt load. As per Government of Haryana, there is no trend of silt increase in rivers Ghaggar and Yamuna and silt is also removed from river bed through different quarries.

(b) Upper Yamuna River Board have informed that as a result of pollution, the water carrying capacity of the river is not affected. Silting in rivers is natural phenomena, the magnitude of which various from year to year. In view of mining/quarrying of sand/silt, the Governments of Punjab and Haryana have indicated that there is no substantial/adverse effect on the carrying capacity of the rivers.

(c) Does not arise. As per Government of Haryana, it is neither practical nor necessary to artificially increase the carrying capacity of the rivers. As per Government of Punjab, there is no necessity at present for framing any policy in this matter.

Water surplus to Rajasthan

1629. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the 1981 agreement for sharing of Ravi-Beas water, there is a provision "until such time Rajasthan is in position to utilize its full share, Punjab may utilize the water surplus to Rajasthan's requirement";

(b) whether Government intends to direct BBMB to restore remaining 0.60 MAF to Rajasthan as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share of 8.6 MAF since 1991; and

(c) if so, by what specific time, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Clause (ii) of the agreement dated 31.12.1981 among the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan regarding allocation of surplus Ravi-Beas waters provides that until such time as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirement.

(b) and (c) Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004, enacted by Punjab Legislature on 12.07.04 terminates all agreements on Ravi-Beas waters including the 1981 agreement and discharges the State Government from any obligation arising from these agreements. A Presidential Reference thereupon is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Thus, any direction to Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in the matter of restoration of remaining 0.60 MAF will depend on the outcome of the Presidential Reference